

REMARKS

Claim 16 has been rewritten into independent form to secure allowance of claims 16-18, as noted in paragraph 14 of the Office Action.

The Chaplain reference is applied against claim 1 to support a rejection for anticipation. The rationale for the rejection tracks the claim language and, regrettably, provides little guidance as to how the Examiner reads the reference on the claim. The chaplain reference includes an annular ring that is kidney shaped. It has bent ends 14 and 15 with a depression 16 in between. The tubular 2 has a recess 3 into which the seal is inserted. The kidney shape of the exterior portion of the seal is used to give the interior cantilevered segment (6,7 and 8) a bias into the center of tubular 2 so that when the other tubular is advanced toward ledge 10 a reaction force is created to push the cantilevered segment radially outwardly against the internally directed radial bias on created when the kidney shaped exterior segment is introduced into recess 3 (Column 3 Lines 24-37).

Before this amendment claim 1 already had the element that the compressive stress on the seal from merely inserting it into the tubular was substantially in a direction aligned with the seal's longitudinal axis. Already, it can be seen that the Chaplain reference deliberately does not do this. It creates a kidney shape on the exterior ring to precisely create a force vector acting on the seal perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the pipe 2. In fact, the kidney shape makes it difficult to divine a concept of a longitudinal axis having a defined direction. Even if a line is drawn through the kidney shaped portion that is parallel to the central axis of the pipe 2, it can hardly be said that the compressive force is substantially in alignment with that arbitrarily drawn axis when

the desired result is to plainly bias the seal inwardly to counter the force applied when the other tubular (not shown) is inserted into tubular 2 and advanced to ledge 10. Despite these differences and to make them even more apparent, claim 1 has been amended to further indicate that the seal does not experience significant bending along its longitudinal axis by virtue of being inserted. The Chaplain reference is bent into a kidney shape either originally and is further bent to insert it. Alternatively the Chaplain seal is bent upon insertion to achieve the inward bias that is desired to counteract the opposing force created insertion of the other tubular. Either way the Chaplain device, which is a low pressure joint used in irrigation pipe (Column1 Lines 11-23) does not render claim 1 anticipated as it lacks the compression being substantially along the longitudinal axis of the seal and accomplished without any significant bending along that axis.

As to claim 8, the language has been clarified on the assumption that the Examiner assumes item 15 in Chaplain to be a protrusion and the entirety of the recess 3 to be the depression. Claim 8 recites that the seal in a recess and that the protrusion-depression combination is between the seal end a portion of the recess. In Chaplain, the recess 3 has flat walls 17,18,19 and 20. It therefore has no projection or depression separate from the overall recess 3 that accepts the entire seal.

Since claim 9 is rejected after previously being allowed, it has been re-written back to dependent form to depend on claim 8. For reasons articulated with respect to claim 8, claims 9-10 are now also in allowable condition. Similar changes as those made to claim 8 have been made to claim 12 making that claim allowable for the same reason.

Claim 15 is rejected as anticipated by Warner. The Examiner relies on item 30 for the beveled sealing surface. Actually the sealing surfaces in Warner are 22 and 28 and the

ramp 30 is merely a guide for the insertion of pipe 11. Both sealing surfaces 22 and 28 are cantilevered. Claim 15 has an integral beveled sealing surface that is not cantilevered. The Examiner has pointed to now structure in Warner that is a sealing surface and described to be beveled. Scaling from patent drawings is not permitted without a supporting description. Claim 15, as amended is not anticipated because Warner lacks a beveled sealing surface and lacks a non-cantilevered sealing surface. It is noted that Warner is a bell and spigot joint, typically used in sewage piping and other very low-pressure applications.

Allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.


Respectfully submitted,



Mike Hartmann
Registration No.: 46,760
Cooper Cameron Corporation
P.O. Box 1212
Houston, Texas 77251-1212
Phone: 713 939 2749
Fax: 713 939 2856

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 31 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence along with any referred to as attached or enclosed is being deposited with the US Postal Service as First Class mail, postage prepaid in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450 on the 30th day of September 2003.

Signature: 
Michael P. Hartmann